

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2692
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0691

EXDIS

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN, WA,US,SF
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH SWAPO REP BEN BURIRAB,
MARCH 9

1. AMBASSADOR YOUNG BEGAN BY OBSERVING THAT GIVEN THE IN-STABILITY EXISTING IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE SCHEDULE FOR THE TURNHALLE CONFERENCE FORMING AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT BE SLOWED DOWN, SINCE A PREMATURE DECLARATION OF A GOVERNMENT BEHOLDEN TO SOUTH AFRICA COULD LEAD TO A SOUTH AFRICAN MEMACE TO SOUTHERN ANGOLA AS WELL. AMBASSADOR YOUNG ADDED THAT, IN HIS VIEW, THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTING SC RES 385, RATHER THAN CONTINUING ON TACK OF SEEKING SIMPLY SAG/SWAPO MEETING, WHICH INITIATIVE HAS AS YET PROVED UNFRUITFUL. AMBASSADOR YOUNG ADVANCED IDEA OF WESTERN MEMBER STATES OF SECURITY COUNCIL, WHO HAVE ECONOMIC LEVERAGE OVER SOUTH AFRICA, INFORMING SAG THAT
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TURNHALLE WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

2. BEN GURIRAB REPLIED TO QUESTIONS FROM MR. MCHENRY, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, TO THE AFFECT THAT SWAPO WOULD AGREE TO ELECTIONS, WOULD REJECT A REFERENDUM BASED UPON TRIBAL AFFILIATIONS, AND HAD NOTHING TO DISCUSS WITH TURNHALLE. MCHENRY ASKED BEN BURIRAB WHETHER,WERE SOUTH

AFRICA TO GUARANTEE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENTS, SWAPO
IN THAT CASE COULD NOT NEGOTIATE WITH REPS OF TURNHALLE. BEN
GURIRAB INDICATED HE WOULD HAVE TO REFLECT ON THAT.

3. AMPLIFYING ON HIS EARLIER DISCUSSION, AMBASSADOR YOUNG
SUGGESTED THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL COULD CONSTITUTE A
SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF WESTERN MEMBERS,
WHO WOULD MEET WITH SOUTH AFRICA TO DISCUSS ELECTIONS
LEADING TO THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED
BODY. SWAPO SHOULD ATTEND SUCH SESSIONS, IN ORDER TO ASSURE
THE FREEING OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, FREE ELECTIONS, WITH-
DRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS, AND THE SETTING OF AN
ACCEPTABLE ELECTION DATE. AMBASSADOR YOUNG ASKED BEN GURIRAB,
WHO IS RETURNING TO LUSAKA MARCH 10, TO DISCUSS THIS WITH
SWAPO LEADERSHIP AND, SHOULD HE HAVE ANY THOUGHTS IN THE
INTERIM, TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR LOW IN LUSAKA. BEN-
BURIRAB WILL RETURN TO NEW YORK MARCH 19-20.

4. IN CONCLUSION, AMBASSADOR YOUNG EXPLAINED TO BEN GURIRAB
THAT SHOULD SOUTH AFRICA REJECT THE PROPOSAL BY A SECURITY
COUNCIL COMMITTEE, SUCH A REJECTION WOULD BE NOT OF
SWAPO BUT OF FIVE COUNTRIES UPON WHICH SOUTH AFRICA
DEPENDS ECONOMICALLY. AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID THAT HE
FORESAW PROCESS REGARDING NAMIBIA WOULD BEGIN THIS MONTH,
PROCEEDING IN STAGES, WITH THE TARGET DATE FOR POSITIVE
STEPS BEING MID-MAY. THIS ACTION WOULD NOT INTERFERE AT
ALL WITH OTHER INITIATIVES CONCERNING APARTHEID AND RHODESIA.
ON ITS SIDE, MCHENRY STATED, SWAPO SHOULD DEVOTE ATTENTION
TO TAKING CONCRETE STEPS, RATHER, THAN DRAFTING OF SECURITY
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COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS WHICH CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED.
YOUNG

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